

Policy BEDH Public Comments

Issued 2/21

Purpose: Given the current global pandemic the board would like to provide an avenue for any individual who desires to appear before a regular meeting of the board an option to do so either electronically or in-person, subject to the occupancy capacity of the meeting room within the safe distancing protocols.

Board meetings shall be conducted in an orderly and efficient manner. Reasonable controls shall regulate public presentations to the board. No speaker may use public comment to discuss personnel matters otherwise private or confidential. Speakers are to discuss issues, not individuals. The chairman or his/her designee is authorized to terminate any speaker's time who does not observe this policy.

All public comments, both virtual and in-person, shall be presented during an agenda item with a maximum time frame of thirty (30) minutes.

A suitable visible timing device shall be employed, and it shall audibly mark the end of the presentation period.

In-Person Public Comment

Those wishing to address the board in-person must properly wear a face mask during the entire duration of the agenda item and while in attendance of the Board meeting in accordance with policy ADD, *Face Coverings*. Safe distance must be maintained by those commentators at all times, and all safe distancing, room capacity, and security CCSD protocols shall apply. The Superintendent shall ensure the establishment of those protocols.

The time allotted for in-person commentators to address the Board shall not exceed two (2) minutes and shall be evenly divided up if the number of in-person comments and virtual comments to be read aloud exceeds the above referenced thirty (30) minutes timeframe.

The district shall provide additional space to have in-person commentators safely line-up while waiting to address the board.

Electronic Public Comment

Those wishing to address the board electronically may continue submitting public comments by email at publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us once the agenda has posted and at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.

The board's vice-chairman shall read the public comments related to the board meeting's agenda, following the time allotted for in-person commentators and within the thirty (30) minute time limit for public comments in total. If the volume of comments exceeds the thirty (30) minute time limit, virtual comments shall still be included in the public documents in BoardDocs.

In order to ensure that more people have the opportunity to address the board, individuals who spoke at the previous board meeting may be asked to submit their comments electronically if there are more individuals requesting in-person comments than the thirty (30) minute time limit would allow.

The public comment section of policy BE, *Board Meetings*, shall be effectively suspended and this temporary policy will be in effect until rescinded by the board.

Adopted 2/22/21

Charleston County School District
